IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4 to 10, and 15 to 19 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a substrate with a ~~mark~~ plurality of marks each having information, the method comprising:

a marking step of forming ~~a mark having an information~~ the plurality of marks on a surface of [[a]] the substrate; and

a reading step of reading the ~~mark~~ plurality of marks,

wherein prior to the reading step, at least a part of each of the ~~mark~~ plurality of marks is formed in a region of the substrate where a factor that hinders the reading of the ~~mark~~ plurality of marks in the reading step is not generated, and

wherein in the marking step, the plurality of marks is formed such that the marking positions of at least two consecutive ones of the plurality of marks are offset with respect to each other in a direction perpendicular to the direction of generation of the factor that hinders reading of the plurality of marks.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the marking step, each of the ~~mark~~ plurality of marks is formed in a direction nonparallel to the direction of generation of the factor that hinders reading of the ~~mark~~ plurality of marks.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark plurality of marks is deformation of the substrate.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark plurality of marks is film attachment to the substrate.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark plurality of marks is a change in color of the substrate.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the factor that hinders reading of the mark plurality of marks is coloring of the substrate.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the marking step, the mark plurality of marks is formed while moving the substrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the reading step, a portion of one of the mark plurality of marks subjected to hindrance to reading due to the factor that hinders reading of the mark plurality of marks is inferred and implemented based on the results of reading of ones of the plurality of marks formed

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preceding and succeeding the formation of the ~~mark~~ <u>one of the plurality of marks</u> subjected to the hindrance to reading.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the reading step, the ~~mark~~ <u>plurality of marks</u> is read while moving the substrate.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a continuous member.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, which is of a roll-to-roll system.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a non-light transmissive substrate.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a photovoltaic element substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein <u>each</u> <u>of</u> the ~~mark~~ <u>plurality of marks</u> comprises a character, a bar code, a two-dimensional code or a combination thereof.

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16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the mark~~ at least one of the plurality of marks is formed by a laser.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the mark~~ at least one of the plurality of marks is formed by impression.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the mark~~ at least one of the plurality of marks is formed by printing.

19. (Withdrawn--Currently Amended) A mark reading program for reading marks formed on a surface of a substrate, the program making a computer execute:

a step of reading a plurality of marks;

a step of saving the results of reading of the marks as data;

a step of ~~acessing~~ accessing data preceding and succeeding occurrence of a read error when the error occurs;

a step of comparing the accessed data with each other; and

a step of inferring and complementing data in which the data error has occurred on the basis of the result of the comparison.

20. (Withdrawn) A mark reading apparatus for reading marks formed on a surface of a substrate, comprising:

means for reading marks;

means for saving the read marks as data; and

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means for inferring and complementing, when a read error occurs, at least a

portion of data in which the data error has occurred on the basis of data stored by the means

for saving preceding and succeeding the mark at which the read error has occurred.

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